

*Revision date: April 16, 2020*

## Protocol for Staff Exposed to COVID-19

### General Comments

#### ***CDC Stratification of risks following exposure to COVID-19***

- **Low risk:** *barely walking by an asymptomatic person who tested positive for COVID*
- **Mild risk:** *Being in the same room and within 6 ft of a symptomatic COVID+ person but exposure time less than 10 minutes.*
- **Medium risk:** *Prolonged exposure (10 minutes or longer) within 6 ft of a symptomatic COVID+ person.*
- **High risk:** *Close household contact of person suspected or confirmed COVID+*

#### **Note:**

*In all situations, risk is reduced if one or both parties have face mask on during the exposure*

*A contact with a contact of someone who is suspected or confirmed COVID positive (i.e. a person twice removed from the COVID case) is at low risk, and does not require additional monitoring or restrictions*

#### **A. Staff with direct exposure to (or direct contact with potential infectious secretions of) an asymptomatic person who subsequently (at a later time/date after the exposure) develops symptoms and tests positive for COVID; Staff remains asymptomatic**

- *If exposure occurred **48 hours or less** before onset of symptoms, **proceed directly to B (below)***
- *If exposure occurred **greater than 48 hours** before onset of symptoms, return to work as usual*
- Monitor temperature daily
- Maintain social distance and frequent hand hygiene
- If temperature is 100F or higher, or if respiratory symptoms develop, do not come to work
- Call your supervisor
- Call your Primary Care Physician (PCP)
- Report Doctor's recommendation to your supervisor

#### **B. Staff with direct exposure to (or direct contact with potential infectious secretions of) a suspected or confirmed case of COVID; staff is asymptomatic**

- For **high risk** exposure - Self-quarantine for 14 days
- For **mild or medium risk** exposure, return to work wearing a facemask and monitor temperature twice a day for 14 days from time of the last exposure
- Maintain social distance as much as possible and *frequent hand hygiene*
- Be alert to development of respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, fatigue, chills or sore throat. If any of them develops, stay home or leave work immediately if at work.
- Call your PCP or 911 for severe symptoms
- Call your supervisor
- Follow additional steps as stated in c (below)

**C. Staff with suspected COVID-19 infection**

- Stay home or if at work, inform supervisor and leave immediately with face mask on
- Contact PCP and ask to be tested for COVID-19
- Housekeeping staff will complete terminal disinfection and cleaning of staff's work space, including desks, chairs and computer, following CDC/DPH protocol
- Supervisor or designee will identify close contacts of staff and proceed according to **B above**. Supervisor will call staff to get list of close contacts in last **48 hours**
- Supervisor or designee will inform the staff's colleagues and patients from the staff's unit (through community meeting)
- Monitor patients twice daily for fever or respiratory symptoms
- If the staff's tests come back positive, staff will stay at home and staff's close contacts will maintain social distance, frequent hand hygiene and wear masks while at work. If staff's contacts develop symptoms anytime during that period, they should leave work, stay home and call their PCP to be tested.
- If the tests are negative, staff will return when recovered enough to work.

**D. Return to Work: For staff with confirmed COVID+ test**

- Staff will call supervisor to give updates of symptoms at mutually agreed frequency
- Staff will return to work if: no fever for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications; **and** respiratory symptoms have improved; **and** 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. For staff with access to repeat testing, two consecutive tests conducted 24 hours apart at minimum, should be negative. Staff cannot return to work until both test results are obtained.